



Do the right thing

The EPA needs to bite the bullet.

They need to step up and do what is necessary to get the high school track finished this year.

If they want to retain any credibility in this community, they need to do the right thing.

The government process delayed and delayed work on the track to a point it is now questionable that it will be finished. Meaning next spring the high school track team will again be without a facility to train and compete on.

This is more than a school athlete inconvenience, it's a community economic development issue created once again by federal incompetence.

Concern is that the rubberized all-weather surface can't be applied unless there is five weeks of dry, warm weather. Daytime temperatures have to remain above 60 and nighttime temps must stay higher than 40 degrees. We're talking from mid-September to almost late October.

This work should have been completed months ago and EPA officials know it.

So it's time to cough up the cash and do whatever it takes to get that surface put down this fall.

Home football games could be a problem but it's workable.

A lightweight framework of PVC tubing can be constructed four to six feet off the ground and covered with tarps to keep the moisture off the surface. At night, if there is concern with low temperatures, kerosene or gas heaters can be maintained to keep the surface warm. The construction industry does this all the time for concrete, in far more extreme conditions.

During home football games, providing it's not raining, everything can be removed and set aside until the game is over. It can then be reassembled after the game.

Fencing can be used to keep foot traffic off the track while it's curing.

Yes, this is a labor intensive, expensive possibility but the feds screwed up and the community should not be asked to shoulder the load again. — Roger Morris

Aug 30, 02

Western News